GREAT BEND
PUBLIC SCHOOLS • USD 428
Barton County, 1809 24th Street, Great Bend, Kansas 67530

BOARD REPORT

August 10, 2026 **5:00 p.m.**

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

Board Members Mrs. Jacquie Disque, president; Mr. Aaron Emerson, vice-president; Mrs. Karen Lindberg, Mrs. Sarah Schenek, Ms. Barb Thoren Mr. Randy Wetzel, Mrs. Sara Williams

Communications

The USD 428 Education Foundation – No report, but will meet again in August.

Presentations

- Director's Report

Each month, a district director will present department updates to board members.
Cody Schmidt, Director of Grounds and Transportation, reported to board members at this meeting. He briefly outlined the tasks his department performs during the school year to maintain USD 428's grounds, provide bus transportation for students, and manage the fleet of vehicles used for activities and professional development travel. The maintenance and grounds staff were present.

- ✓ USD 428 bus drivers have logged 91,059 miles total. (Activity buses: 72,981; Special Education buses: 18,078. Activity vans with students racked up 72,809 miles, and non-student van miles amounted to 38,918 for teacher in-services, etc. Special Education vans drove 23,440 miles.
- ✓ Maintenance crews have completed inspections to make repairs as needed.
- ✓ Crews have painted lines on football and soccer fields
- ✓ Overall, the maintenance and transportation are fully staffed and in great shape, largely due to the dedicated and talented staff.

In addition to completed projects, upcoming needs include:

- Addressing the concrete fire lane between the football field and high school
- Resurfacing or repairing the GBHS student parking lot.
- Replacing the GBHS sidewalk
- Creating an annual preventative district crew plan
- Upcoming potential expenditures include purchasing a second dump trailer

Approval of Financial Audit Services

Mr. Popp discussed the engagement letter for the financial audit of the regulatory basis financial statements and disclosures, which together constitute the basic financial statement of USD 428 for the year ending June 30, 2026. The Board approved Adams Brown, LLC, to conduct the audit for the 2025-2026 school

year, with a fee not to exceed $24,000 for the overall financial statement audit and $5,000 per major program for the year ending June 30, 2026. The Board approved the services.

Curriculum and Instruction Report

Assistant Superintendent JoAnn Blevins

- 2026-2027 Instruction and Assessment Overview

Assistant Superintendent Blevins shared an outline and discussed instructional and assessment goals for the upcoming year. The district is implementing the new K-12 Social Studies and Preschool materials. Health and Life is under review. Pilot programs for the new curriculum will begin in the fall for preschool and K-12 Social Studies, with recommendations to be presented to the Board in the spring.

- At-Risk Accountability Plan

Mrs. Blevins gave the board a brief overview of the requirements of K.S.A. 72-3574, which mandates that districts create an at-risk student accountability plan. This is the first year of implementation, and the district will work through the process and procedures by the October 31, 2026, deadline.

- Curriculum Meetings
  - Curriculum Steering Committee: Next meeting- 9/8/26
  - Professional Development Council (PDC): Next meeting- 8/17/26

Business and Operations Report

Assistant Superintendent John Popp

- Capital Outlay Plan

Mr. Popp presented the expected Capital Outlay expenditures for the upcoming year. Capital Outlay funds are dedicated school budgets that address the district's long-term sustainability needs, including maintenance of roofs, infrastructure, HVAC, grounds, playgrounds, equipment, and security measures. The plan estimates $2.4 million in capital outlay needs, with a $1.2 million budget available to meet them.

- Budget Update

Mr. Popp reported that the 2026-2027 budget is in progress. The new Qmlative system is not generating reports properly, causing delays in the budget process. The budget will be reviewed at the August 26, 2026, noon meeting.

- Project Updates

Mr. Popp presented photos of the following completed projects and discussed updates on the following projects.

- GBHS: HVAC, Roof project, Press Box windows and flooring; storage barn was re-sided in red with black trim. The south concrete picnic area is complete, and tables are arriving.
- GBMS: Parking Lot
- Eisenhower: Door installation
- Fire panels: GBHS, Jefferson, Park, Riley
- Camera Projects
- Summer cleaning and maintenance projects

- Project Updates

Mr. Popp updated the Board on the district's change in health insurance third-party administrator. The district has switched from Freedom Claims Management to Meritain, an Aetna Network. Cafeteria plans have been moved from American Fidelity to KBS, a KASB company.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Khris Thexton

- Athletic Physicals Update

Earlier this month, the University of Kansas Health Center, in collaboration with USD 428, provided free school sports physicals to 230 Great Bend Middle and High School student-athletes. USD 428 is grateful to the medical community for providing this service.

- Enrollment Update

The preliminary enrollment shows a decline, with fewer students than in the official enrollment last September. Mr. Thexton noted that late enrollments are expected before school starts, and final numbers will be available later.

- Student Transfer Request Report

Determinations were made on elementary school transfer requests for the 2026-2027 school year. Mr. Thexton received thirty-eight in-house requests and five out-of-district requests. The basic standard is that students attend their area's designated school, with special situation requests considered based on classroom sizes and the assigned designated school. Ten of the requests were denied.

- Summer Meal Program Update

USD 428 School Food Service personnel served a total of 28,774 breakfast packets and 29,618 lunch packets. Meal packets were available to any child under 18 at three locations. The program continues to grow and remains an important service in our community. The central kitchen staff is appreciated for their hard work.

- Board Governance Document

The Board Governance Document defines the role of a school board member, outlines unwritten rules, and includes general information updated to reflect the current year for board members to refer to.

- KASB Annual Conference in Wichita, KS

Superintendent Thexton informed the Board of Education members about the upcoming annual conference of the Kansas Association of School Boards (KASB) in Wichita, KS, from November 6-8. The conference offers a valuable opportunity to deepen understanding of BOE operations and to meet and exchange knowledge with other board members and administrators.

- Approval of Contributions

  The BOE approved the grants and contributions noted below.

  - Strawbridge Reward Incentive contributions for the following schools have been received.

School	Amount
Lincoln Elementary	$ 270.18
Little Panthers Preschool	$ 765.78
GB Middle School	$ 474.59

  - USD 428 wishes to accept a KSDE Safe and Secure Schools Grant of $18,886 to support the purchase and implementation of safety measures in USD 428 schools.
  - USD 428 wishes to accept a KSDE State Assessment Grant of $19,544.00 to support the implementation of through-assessments (proficiency screeners) in grades 2-high school.
  - Ms. Sarah Vaughn, LPP teacher, wishes to apply for and accept a McPherson County Community Foundation Norene Ketcherside Endowment for the Fine Arts Art Symposium grant for $150.
  - GBHS Special Services wishes to apply for and accept a Golden Belt Community Foundation KHF Children's Health Endowment Fund / John and Doris Grahm Memorial Fund grant of $5,940 for the Brew & Bloom program and the Student Microenterprise safe shredding workstation programs.
  - Andrea Siefkes, GBHS Science teacher, wishes to accept a $1,000 Golden Belt Community Foundation Humphres Staff Award.
  - Mrs. Katie Barkow, Eisenhower Elementary School teacher, wishes to accept a $100 gift card from Lox Salon for the Books and Braids program.

Financial Report

Mr. Popp presented the warrants, financial report, travel summary, energy report, unencumbered cash balance details, and health insurance status to board members.

Consent Agenda

Board members approved the following items.

- Approval of BOE Meeting Minutes: July 13, 2026
- Bills and Financial Reports: As presented.
- Personnel Report:
  - ✓ Ms. Mikayla Spitler, teacher of Science at GB Middle School
  - ✓ Mrs. Alannah West, teacher of ESL at Riley Elementary School
  - ✓ Ms. Lindsay Luttrell, teacher of Music at Jefferson Elementary School

Executive Session(s)

The Board recessed into executive session to discuss individual employees' performance under KOMA. No action was taken after the session.

Upcoming Events

Board members were reminded of the forthcoming events.

- **First Day of School:** August 19, 2026, for PreK-6, GBMS Grade 7, and GBHS Grade 9
- **First Day of School:** August 20, 2026, for Grades 8,10, 11, and 12
- **BOE Luncheon Meeting:** Wednesday, August 26, 2026, Park Elementary School
- **BOE Regular Meeting:** The next BOE regular monthly meeting is scheduled for September 14, 2026, at the District Education Center.

Adjournment

The Board of Education meeting was adjourned.